

I understand that the FCC is considering a plan to open up competition in the ISP area. I would oppose any change that allowed telephone companies to compete directly with independent ISPs (such as Sonic.net). This market needs to be regulated by the FCC in such a way that the ISPs get fair access to the consumer.

I have been with Sonic for a number of years. The reason I have their service is because they have high-quality technical services that would not be provided in a strictly price-competitive market. If they had to depend on the phone companies to grant them access at any price, we can bet that they would be quickly acquired or forced out of business. This would require constant changes to my service as I moved from one company to another in an effort to duplicate Sonic's service, probably without being able to find the same combination.

This is exactly what has happened in the banking business. I recently had to change my bank because the bank I had chosen over 20 years ago was finally acquired by a large conglomerate. They immediately increased fees (disregarding my existing agreements with my former bank) and provided less service. I switched to a smaller local bank. I'm not certain how long it will be before I have to switch again.

Changing banks (or ISPs) is not trivial. Each change costs me both time and money.

Please make sure that ISPs have fair access to consumers so that I, and others like me, can continue to use their service.